## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: NOON PRESS BRIEFING, FEBRUARY 24

 $1. \ \ FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT'S NOON BRIEFING FEBRUARY 24: \\$ 

QUOTE: Q: YOU PROBABLY DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER YET, BUT I'D LIKE TO GET YOU STARTED ON THE QUESTION, JOHN. MR. BREZHNEV IN HIS LENGTHY SPEECH THIS MORNING INCLUDED A FEW ITEMS, INCLUDING, (1) HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD PROPOSED NOT ONLY THE CURRENT VLADIVOSTOK, BUT THAT FUTURE WEAPONS SUCH AS THE B-1 AND THE TRIDENT BE BANNED ALONG WITH THE SOVIET EQUIVALENT. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS NEVER HAD, OR NEVER PLANS TO HAVE, BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND WISHES THE UNITED STATES WOULD ADOPT THE SAME POLICY. I WOULD LIKE COMMENTS ON EITHER OR BOTH.

A: ON THE FIRST POINT, BERNIE, I DID SEE WHAT CHAIRMAN BREZHNEV HAD TO SAY ON THE B-1'S AND THE TRIDENT. I CAN SAY THAT IT IS TRUE THAT FROM TIME TO TIME THE SOVIETS DID MENTION THOSE TWO WEAPONS SYSTEMS--THE TRIDENT AND UNCLASSIFIED

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THE B-1--TO US INTHEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH US, BUT THAT IN

EXPLORING IT WITH THEM, WE FOUND IT TO BE A ONE-SIDED PROPOSAL INASMUCH AS THEY WERE--

Q: GO SLOWER, PLEASE.

A: --BECAUSE THEY WERE NEVER WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH US WHAT WEAPONS SYSTEMS, OR WHAT EQUIVALENT WEAPONS SYSTEMS ON THEIR SIDE, THEY WERE THINKING OF BANNING OR LIMITING.

I MIGHT NOTE THAT, IN ANY CASE, I BELIEVE THAT THE TRIDENT AND THE B-1 ARE COUNTED AND LIMITED UNDER THE VLADIVOSTOK CEILINGS.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE INDIAN BASE ANGLE?

A: NOTHING SPECIFIC, BARRY. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IN THE PAST THE SOVIETS.-AND I AM THINKING OF FAIRLY DISTANT PAST, BACK WITHIN THE LAST SIX OR EIGHT YEARS, AT LEAST FROM TIME TO TIME.-THEY PROPOSED, OR MADE PROPOSALS, ABOUT LEAVING THE INDIAN OCEAN FREE OF MILITARY BASES OF EITHER SIDE. BUT IT IS MY IMPRESSION TAT IN TRYING TO EXPLORE THAT WITH THEM, WE WERE NOT ABLE TO ELICIT THEIR FIRM IDEAS ON THE SUBJECT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE SPEECH, IN GENERAL, ON RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. OR ANY OTHER SPECIFIC--

A: NO, I DO NOT, BERNIE.

Q: DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE PROPOSAL OF A WORLD TREATY BANNING THE USE OF STRENGTH?

A: BANNING THE USE OF STRENGTH?

Q: YES.

A: I DO NOT HAVE ANY PARTICULAR COMMENT.

Q: ANY COMMENT ON HIS STATEMENT ON DETENTE, ON THE VIRTUES OF DETENTE, THAT IT WOULD REMAIN THE MAIN UNCLASSIFIED

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PLANK OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY?

A: NO. OTHER THAN WHAT I SAID IN ANSWER TO BERNIE'S QUESTION AND BARRY'S QUESTION, I DO NOT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON EACH OF THESE POINTS, NO. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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